



VOICE GHANA

Voice of People with Disability Ghana

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18th March 2013

Hon. District Chief Executive
Nkwanta South District Assembly
P.O. Box 1
NKwanta

Dear Hon. District Chief Executive,

**Petition on the Waiver of PTA Dues and Levies
for Pupils with Disability at Basic School
Level in the Nkwanta South District**

This petition is developed by VOICE GHANA, a Disability Advocacy and Capacity Building Organisation as part of its advocacy to urge the Nkwanta South District Assembly to consider enacting a bye-law to waive the payment of levies including PTA dues for children with disabilities at the basic school level in the district.

We propose that the bye-law should make room for basic schools that have enrolment of four (4) or more children with disabilities to access the 2% District Assembly Common Fund, earmarked for persons with disability, as incentive package to augment the payment of their education expenses.

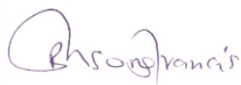
This intervention will invariably lessen financial burden on many parents, guardians or caregivers of children with disabilities who are already overburden with several financial commitments in supporting their disabled children to live a life as close to normal life as possible. It will also become an incentive for many parents, guardians or caregivers to commit to educating their children with disabilities in the district.

It is an established fact that inclusion of children with disabilities in education is important for four main reasons.

1. Education contributes to human capital establishment and is thus a key determinant of personal well-being and welfare for people with disabilities.
2. Excluding children with disabilities from educational and employment opportunities has high social and economic costs. For example, adults with disabilities tend to be poorer than those without disabilities, but education changes this status.

3. Countries cannot achieve Education for All or the Millennium Development Goal of universal completion of primary education without ensuring access to education for children with disabilities.
4. Countries that are signatories to the UN Convention on the Right of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) cannot fulfill their responsibilities under Article 24 of the CRPD.

The waiver of PTA dues and other levies for pupils with disability at basic school level as proposed by VOICE GHANA will of course position the Nkwanta South District Assembly as the flagship District Assembly, which has fulfilled its statutory responsibility by making education totally free for children with disabilities in line with Section 18(1) of the Disability Act and other legislative framework.



Francis Asong
Director, VOICE GHANA

Cc: Chairperson, Education Oversight Committee, NSDA, Nkwanta,
Presiding Member, NSDA, Nkwanta,
Chairperson, Social Service Committee, NSDA, Nkwanta,
Chairperson, Disability Fund Management Committee, Nkwanta,
District Director of Education, Nkwanta,
Special Education Officer, GES, Nkwanta,
Chairperson of E.P Schools Management Committee, Nkwanta.